



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

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FIRST THINGS FIRST SEEKS 250+ VOLUNTEERS STATEWIDE TO SERVE ON REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCILS

Invitation for any individual to apply who can commit to public service

PHOENIX (December 17, 2007) First Things First – The Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board – announced today that applications for the Regional Partnership Councils are being accepted through January 31, 2008.

The Councils are responsible for planning and improving early childhood development and health outcomes for children birth to age five across the state. Arizonans have a unique opportunity to work together in service to their communities, taking action and using their time and energy to bring about positive change for young children through the First Things First Regional Partnership Councils.

The Councils will be comprised of individuals who live or work in a defined geographic region and are appointed by First Things First. Comprised of 11 individuals who represent parents, early care and education, health, education, the faith-based community, business, philanthropy, and tribal communities, each member will serve an initial 2 or 4 year term.

A map outlining the regional boundaries as established by First Things First, the application, job description, instruction guide, frequently asked questions and a fact sheet about the Regional Partnership Councils is posted on: www.azecdh.gov.

The role of Council appointees is critical to the state's future, as there is no longer any question - early experiences from birth to age five have a profound and lasting effect on children. Never before has the evidence from experts in the multiple disciplines of neuroscience, child development and economics been so compelling in support of investing resources on behalf of young children. Arizona is presented with an unprecedented opportunity to create an early childhood system that affords our children an equal chance to reach their fullest potential, provide families with real choices about their children's educational and developmental experiences, and engage every community in sharing the responsibility as well as the benefits of safe, healthy and productive residents.

The 12 member First Things First - AZECDH board was established by the passage of the Proposition 203 initiative in 2006. The measure funds a system to enhance accessibility to and quality of early childhood development and health services for children five and younger at the local level.

About First Things First Building a comprehensive system of early childhood programs for Arizona's children. www.azecdh.gov

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